

### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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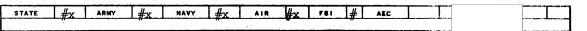
COUNTRY	USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)	REPORT	·
SUBJECT	Soviet Army EM Serving in an Extended Tour Status (Sverkhsrochniki)		iber 1954
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ARMY review completed.

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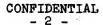
25 YEAR RE-REVIEW



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COL	UNTRY	USSR/Germany	(Soviet Zone)	DATE DISTR. 29 Oct 1954
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	cription	<u>on</u>		
1.	certa	ain number o	in Soviet Army unit T f personnel slots that cou	ld be filled by "sverkhs-
	roch:	niki" (exten	ded tour enlisted personne the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. B	l). The "sverkhsrochniki" n., were men who had 25X1
	comp.	leted their	obligatory three-year tour ested to remain on active	of service and had
	were	indicated 1	n the T/O&E by a special m	ilitary number (VUS -
	Potes	nava ooneona	was VUS 146 ca	rried by the clerk of the 25X1
			e Warehouse (PFS - Produkt This slot was authorized t sverkhsrochnik" status.)	o-Furazhnyy Sklad) 25X1 o carry a clerk as PFC 25X1
2.				s that had been specifically
	posi	tions for me	y such personnel. For exa chanic-driver instructors	of the Tk. Supply Co, all
	aid	clerks (labo	rgeants, certain battalion ranty), and some other unk "sverkhsrochniki".	staff clerks, training- nown slots were authorized
3.	Actu	ally there w	ere only 12 "sverkhsrochni These were:	25X1
			ant of Tk. Supply Co maic-driver instructors of T	
	٠	Two mechani	c-driver instructors of Tk spector (Mekhanik-Reguliro	.Supply Cosenior sergeants. vshchik) of Tk.Supply Co
			L for battalion (in Tk.Sup	ply Co) - senior sergeant



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Chief of battalion EM mess (on battalion staff) - master sergeant.

Chief of clothing and equipment warehouse (OVS) (on battalion staff) - sergeant (serzhant).

First Sergeant of 1st Tng.Co - master sergeant.

#### Insignia

- 4. "Sverkhsrochniki" signed up for additional service in two-year increments and for each increment, upon signing, they wore on their left sleeve a gold chevron in the form of a "V". These chevrons were normally made by the "sverkhsrochniki" from ribbon used to indicate the rank of sergeant on Soviet army shoulder boards.
- 5. The longest term of service any of the 12 "sverkhsrochniki" had in unit was less than five years, including three years of compulsory service. Thus, none had completed his first term of service as a "sverkhsrochnik" other "sverkhsrochniki" who wore more than one stripe. One was an elderly man who wore World War II medals and had a beard. He was a master sergeant and had four narrow "sverkhsrochnik" chevrons on his left sleeve.

## Changes Affecting "Sverkhsrochniki" in Austria

6. a. 1952-1953

June 1954 there were two changes that affected "sverkhsrochniki" both in pay and number of authorized slots. 25X1

(1) The first change occurred in November 1952 upon the receipt of an order from the Ministry of Defense. Its purpose was to increase the prestige of Soviet army sergeants. The effective date of the order was 1 January 1953. The overall number of sergeants authorized by T/O&E

was decreased and the slots affected were converted 25X1

to slots for PFC's. Several of the battalion "sverkhs-rochniki" thus found themselves occupying PFC positions.

Of those "sverkhsrochniki" affected one was a master sergeant and another a senior sergeant.

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granted, permission to be demobilized. One was a master sergeant (name unknown) who was the chief of the battalion PFS (Produkto-Furazhnoye Snabzheniye -- food and forage) warehouse; the other was alsenior sengeant Vasiliy FILATOV, senior armorer of the Tk.Supply Co. The remaining soldiers affected took a reduction in pay and grade; however, all were later transferred within the battalion to positions authorizing a higher grade.

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b. 1954

The second change affecting "sverkhsrochniki" was an order from the Minister of Defense in May 1954 which affected the entire T/O&E of the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn. 2 The order increased the over-all number of personnel slots which could be filled by "sverkhsrochniki" but provided that the new slots could not be occupied by personnel over the grade of PFC.

Se Se	aster sergeant - 1,000 Austrian schillin enior sergeant - 800 Austrian schillings ergeant - 650 Austrian schillings per mo rivate first class - 500 Austrian schill	per month. nth.
new over with a he was Lichnos by all (Razchefrom thofficer money.	ecoming a "sverkhsrochnik", a man was imercoat, a new cotton uniform, and a new service hat (furazhka). As personal id given a personal identification certificati) in lieu of the service book (Sluzhe other enlisted personnel. He also receptnaya Knizhka) as did officers and drew ne unit finance officer. He was permitter's mess upon payment of an additional ("sverkhsrochnik enlisted mess to avoid paying the addit a separate room reserved especially for	broadcloth uniform entification document cate (Udostovereniye bnaya Knizhka) carried ived an account book his money directly ed to eat in the unknown) amount of i" preferred to eat ional amount; they
"Sverkh obligat	hsrochniki" had various other privileges tory service enlisted personnel.	not authorized for
granted	ategory. One such privilege was the all d to "sverkhsrochniki," as to officers, ents to Austria.	eged permission to bring their
	me order also granted officers and "sver	khsrochniki" the duty hours.

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- 12. Another privilege granted to "sverkhsrochniki" as a result of the fall 1953 order was the right to drink intoxicants off-duty. This right was denied to all conscripted EM regardless of grade. While "sverkhsrochniki" were still not permitted to bring alcoholic beverages on post, this was a common practice 25X1 as long as the drinking was not too flagrant and the individual was able to perform his duty, no action was taken to curtail this violation.
- 13. "Sverkhsrochniki" had other privileges that

  been in existence much longer. In the USSR they were permitted to
  live off-post, (as were officers). Many "sverkhsrochniki" in the
  USSR lived off-post with women out of wedlock. This was a common
  practice and many men changed "wives" whenever they changed stations.
  Those "sverkhsrochniki" who did not choose to live off-post in the
  USSR were assigned private rooms in barracks. In Austria they were
  not permitted to live off-post but all lived in private rooms in
  garrison. "Sverkhsrochniki" had keys to the doors of their rooms and
  could lock themselves in when they wished to drink on post.
- 14. "Sverkhsrochniki" who lived in private rooms on post were permitted to arrange these rooms and furnish them at their own expense. Most of them had rugs on the floor, a dresser with a linen scarf, and a wardrobe in which to hang their clothes.
- "sverkhsrochniki" were promised upon extending their service that they would work an eight-hour day, daily except Sunday. In practice this was not true Most of 25X1 the "sverkhsrochniki" had assignments that necessitated their presence evenings and sometimes they were required to work around the clock. The company first sergeants, for example, were responsible for their men after duty hours and often had to remain to issue uniforms and equipment. Those "sverkhsrochniki" who were mechanic-driver instructors conducted classes on their tanks and SP guns during the normal work day and performed maintenance at night. This additional work was often used by "sverkhsrochniki" as an excuse for absences of up to one day. They were able to say that on the previous day they had worked an extra eight hours and this was accepted by officers as sufficient reason for a day's absence.
- after the implementation of the order from the
  Minister of Defense in the fall of 1953, "sverkhsrochniki" and
  officers in theory were to be permitted to visit Austrian civilian
  communities. He did not know what the practice actually was, but
  stated that "sverkhsrochniki" often went to Mamersdorf and Vienna
  to mail packages to the USSR, either singly or in groups. He
  believed that "sverkhsrochniki" often went without permission to
  the town of Goetzendorf (N 18-Ol, E 16-35) to frequent drinking
  establishments. This practice was not condemned by the officers
  simply because the men involved were "sverkhsrochniki".

#### Attitudes Toward "Sverkhsrochniki"

17. Most of the EM looked upon "sverkhsrochniki" as rather strange creatures. The average soldier in the Soviet army was unable to understand how anyone could desire to prolong his military career in spite of various advantages. Further, most of the "sverkhsrochniki" were considered greedy by the other men for eating in the EM mess where food was "terrible" when they could have eaten much better food in the officers' mess by paying a small sum of money.

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- 18. In general, "sverkhsrochniki" were not respected and the obligatory tour enlisted men were envious of the privileges granted to "sverkhsrochniki". They were called "makaroniki", meaning they preferred to remain in the army and eat macaroni, (which comprised a large proportion of the service diet) instead of returning to the USSR. Another term was "krupayed" meaning "mush eater" (mush or cereal was another staple). It was said of them by the other soldiers, "U nikh net rodiny" (they do not have a motherland).
- 19. "Sverkhsrochniki" always received preferential treatment from officers. They were not subordinate to the company first sergeants and always worked under the supervision of an officer. Most of the slots occupied by "sverkhsrochniki," were key positions and therefore their relations with officers were closer and better than those of obligatory tour EM. They were encouraged by the political officers to remain aloof from other EM and carried this out to the noint that they came and went to work by themselves.

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  this non-fraternization was encouraged mainly because the conscripted enlisted personnel were not permitted to drink and this one item created a wide gulf in the association between "sverkhsrochniki" and conscriptees.
- 20. "Sverkhsrockniki" did not often get into trouble because the rules that applied to other EM did not apply to them. However, 25X1 one incident when a "sverkhsrochnik" was confined for drinking. "Sverkhsrochniki were not normally punished for drinking but in this case a M/Sgt. CHINTSOV was found completely unconscious from drink when the battalion commander wanted him for some reason. For this, he was confined in the 13th Gds. Mecz. Div. guardhouse at Liesing (N 48-08, E 16-18) for 10 days. He received no reduction in pay or any other punishment aside from confinement.

#### Demobilization

- five "sverkhsrochniki" demobilized. Two of them were the men described in paragraph 6a (1). Two others were demobilized in the summer of 1953 upon completion of their two-year commitment as "sverkhsrochniki". These were a M/Sgt. OVRICH who was the first sergeant of the 2d Tng. Co., and a M/Sgt. Mikhail CHENTSOV who was the first sergeant of the Tk. Supply Co.
- 22. The fifth "sverkhsrochnik" who was demobilized was a soldier named Peter CHUPRYNIN who came from the 44th Gds. Mecz. Regt. upon completion of his three year obligatory tour because there was no "sverkhsrochnik"slot open in his old undt. He arrived in the 55th Sep. Tk. Tng. Bn, in the fall of 1953. At that time he was a senior sergeant, had been a tank commander, and was considered an outstanding soldier who had had several articles written about him in papers and magazines. Upon his arrival in the battalion, he was promoted to master sergeant and began immediately borrowing money from any one who would lend it to him. In early March 1954, he went on a 45-day leave to the USSR; in June 1954 the unit received word from the Kharkov voyenkomat that he would be demobilized and that his services records were to be closed.

CHUPRYNIN had married his (BUNDARENKO'S) sister while on leave and that she forced him to leave after a week because of

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his excessive drinking. CHUPRYNIN was then picked up by the komendatura in Stalingrad where he had gone to visit a former wife who also refused to have anything to do with him. When the komendatura picked him up, he was very drunk, had forty 7.62-mm pistol rounds in his pocket, and had lost his papers. He was then demobilized as punishment by the voyenkomat of his native city Kharkov.

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